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OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

## Telephone Number Portability

CC Docket No. 95-116

AT&T is fully committed to fulfilling the Commission's requirements for LNP, and has made every effort to ensure that number portability implementation -- both in its own network and throughout the industry -- fully complies with the schedule established by the Commission's rules. However, as the Phase I Waiver Order found, the failure of the Number Portability

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Administration Center/Service Management System ("NPAC/SMS")<sup>2</sup> vendor in the Western, Southeast and West Coast regions to timely provide a stable LNP platform will prevent carriers in those regions from offering long-term portability in compliance with the schedule established in the LNP Reconsideration Order.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, although AT&T will complete all necessary modifications and upgrades within its own network in time to comply with the Commission's schedule, the unavailability of the NPAC/SMS will preclude it from offering LNP in accordance with the Commission's schedule.

Section 52.3(e) of the Commission's rules requires that a carrier that is unable to comply with the LNP deployment schedule

must demonstrate through substantial, credible evidence the basis for its contention that it is unable to comply with the deployment schedule set forth in Appendix A to Part 52 of this chapter. Such requests must set forth: (1) the facts that demonstrate why the carrier is unable to meet the Commission's deployment schedule; (2) a detailed explanation of the activities that the carrier has undertaken to meet the implementation schedule prior to requesting an extension of time; (3) an identification of the particular switches for which the extension is requested; (4) the time within which the carrier will complete

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<sup>2</sup> The NPAC/SMS is

a hardware and software platform that will contain the database of information required to effect the porting of telephone numbers. In general, the Number Portability Administration Center Service Management System will receive customer information from both the old and new service providers, validate the information received, and download the new routing information when an "activate" message is received indicating that the customer has been physically connected to the new service provider's network.

Second Report and Order, Telephone Number Portability, CC Docket No. 95-116, FCC 97-289, released August 18, 1997, ¶ 9, n.28 ("LNP Second Report and Order").

<sup>3</sup> First Memorandum Opinion and Order On Reconsideration, Telephone Number Portability, CC Docket No. 95-116, FCC 97-74, released March 11, 1997 ("LNP Reconsideration Order").

deployment in the affected switches; and (5) a proposed schedule with milestones for meeting the deployment date.<sup>4</sup>

AT&T addresses each of these five criteria below.

(1) Facts that demonstrate why AT&T is unable to meet the Commission's deployment schedule. The facts underlying AT&T's waiver request were documented in the NANC's January 21, 1998 letter<sup>5</sup> to the Common Carrier Bureau which prompted the Phase I Waiver Order, and in the comments the Bureau received in response to that letter. In brief, Perot Systems, Inc., the company selected as the LNP Administrator ("LNPA") in the three affected regions, was unable provide a stable NPAC/SMS during Turn-up Testing, and clearly will not be able to provide that platform in time to permit carriers to implement LNP Phase I.

(2) Activities AT&T has undertaken to meet the implementation schedule prior to requesting an extension of time. As stated above, AT&T has completed, or will timely complete, all upgrades and modifications to its own network which are necessary to permit it to provide long-term portability in all of the Phase I MSAs. As soon as an NPAC/SMS becomes available in the Western, Southeast and West Coast regions and inter-company testing is completed, AT&T can expeditiously begin meeting all of its LNP obligations.

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<sup>4</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 52.3(e). Section 52.3(e) requires petitions for waiver of the LNP schedule to be filed at least 60 days in advance of the deadline for which the waiver is requested. However, the Phase I Waiver Order authorized carriers seeking a waiver on account of the unavailability of the NPAC/SMS in the Western, Southeast and West Coast regions to file 30 days in advance of the Phase I deadline.

<sup>5</sup> See Letter from Alan Hasselwander, Chairman, North American Numbering Council, to Richard A. Metzger, Jr., Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC, January 21, 1998.

The LLCs in the affected regions have been diligently seeking to keep NPAC/SMS deployment on track, and to keep the Commission and the NANC apprised of the status of their efforts. Recently, the LLCs of all three affected regions agreed to replace Perot Systems with Lockheed Martin IMS as LNPA, and have executed Master Contracts with Lockheed to that effect (subject to the Commission's approval). As the Commission knows, Lockheed was selected as the LNPA for the four remaining regions, and that company has developed and implemented what appears to be a workable NPAC/SMS. AT&T believes that the LLCs' well-considered action in replacing Perot Systems will make it possible to implement LNP in the Western, Southeast and West Coast regions much more rapidly than would otherwise be possible, as Lockheed's NPAC/SMS architecture and software platform are generally recognized as stable, and that company now can deploy what is essentially a "turnkey" system in the regions in which Perot formerly served as LNPA.

(3) Particular switches for which the extension is requested. All switches for which AT&T has received a request for portability in Phase I MSAs in the Western, Southeast and West Coast regions would be LNP-capable by March 31, 1998, but for the unavailability of an NPAC/SMS in each of those areas. However, because NPAC/SMSs will not be operational by the Phase I deadline, AT&T seeks a waiver for a total of twelve switches in the affected regions. These switches are listed in Exhibit 1 to this document.

(4) Time within which AT&T will complete deployment in the affected switches. As stated above, AT&T has completed, or will timely complete, deployment of all necessary modifications and upgrades within its own network. However, AT&T cannot begin participating

in long-term LNP in the affected regions until such time as an NPAC/SMS becomes available for the porting of numbers.

(5) AT&T's proposed implementation schedule. The member companies of the Western, Southeast, and West Coast LLCs have reached consensus agreement as to several of the critical milestones for a revised LNP implementation schedule for those regions.<sup>6</sup> The combined LLCs have agreed as follows:

- May 11, 1998 will be the new "NPAC live date" -- that is, the date by which the Lockheed NPAC/SMS will be ready to begin inter-company testing in the Western, Southeast, and West Coast regions.<sup>7</sup>
- Inter-company testing will last 30 days, and will end June 11, 1998.<sup>8</sup>

The above dates represent industry consensus, and AT&T believes that they are reasonable and should be adopted by the Commission.

However, the LLC members have not been able to agree on new deadlines for completing deployment of long-term number portability following testing. AT&T recommends

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<sup>6</sup> The recommendations made to the NANC by the LLCs for the affected regions are described in a February 24, 1998 memo prepared by the chairs of those LLCs, attached to this petition as Exhibit 2. ("LLCs' NANC Update"). The LLCs' NANC Update was drafted by the LLC chairs, circulated among the LLC members for comments, and then sent by e-mail from Pamela Connell, President, Southeast Number Portability Company, LLC to Allan Hasselwander, Chairman of the NANC for that group's consideration, and to representatives the members of the LLCs for the affected regions.

<sup>7</sup> The LLCs' NANC Update indicates that BellSouth does not believe it will be ready for inter-company testing by May 11, although the NPAC will be "live" by that date. The LLC Update does not explain why BellSouth cannot begin testing by May 11.

<sup>8</sup> The LLCs' NANC Update indicates that US West reported that a longer period for inter-company testing had been planned in Western Region, but does not explain why a more lengthy period is necessary there than in other regions.

that the Commission allow two weeks after completion of inter-company testing for carriers to make any necessary remaining preparations. Under this schedule, Phase I implementation in the Western, Southeast and West Coast regions would be completed by June 26, 1998.

Two weeks following inter-company testing should be adequate time for carriers to implement Phase I LNP for several reasons: First, according to the express terms of the Phase I Waiver Order, carriers in the affected regions should not have delayed implementation of LNP in any respect other than those that "specifically relate to the availability of the vendor-supplied [NPAC/SMS]." <sup>9</sup> Thus, the only aspects of LNP that have yet to be finalized (apart from the testing schedule to which the LLCs already have agreed) are those that directly relate to carriers' ability to place "orders" for porting with the NPAC/SMS and to download routing information from that system to local SMSs. Once inter-company testing is complete, implementation of LNP should be a relatively straightforward matter.

Second, by AT&T's proposed June 26th deadline, the industry will already have gained valuable experience and knowledge from implementing Phases I and II in the other four LNP regions. <sup>10</sup> Moreover, the NPAC/SMSs in those four regions will also be provided by Lockheed, and so by late June carriers should be well familiar with that system's operation.

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<sup>9</sup> Phase I Waiver Order, ¶ 8.

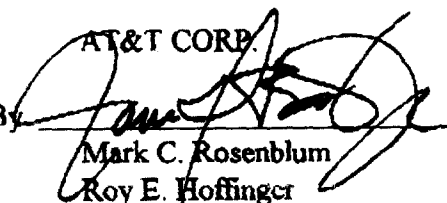
<sup>10</sup> The LNP Reconsideration Order requires LNP implementation in Phase II MSAs no later than May 15, 1998. Even those carriers that do not participate in Phases I and II of LNP implementation in other regions will benefit from the experience of vendors (many of which work for more than one carrier), regulators, and other carriers in those states, and significant knowledge transfers can be expected through industry fora such as the LLCs, as well as through informal contacts.

## CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Commission should grant AT&T's request for a waiver of the requirement to implement long-term local number portability in the Phase I MSAs in the Western, Southeastern and West Coast regions. In addition, the Commission should establish the following deadlines for LNP implementation in those regions by all carriers:

- NPAC "live" date: May 11, 1998
- Inter-company testing completed: June 11, 1998
- LNP implementation in Phase I MSAs: June 26, 1998

Respectfully submitted,

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March 2, 1998

AT&T EXHIBIT 1

SWITCHES FOR WHICH AT&T SEEKS WAIVER OF PHASE I LNP DEADLINES IN  
WESTERN, SOUTHEAST AND WEST COAST REGIONS

Western Region -- Minneapolis, MN MSA

MPLSMNDT18T  
MPLSMNDT40T

Southeast Region -- Atlanta, GA MSA

ATLNGATLDS5  
ATLNGATLDS4  
ATLNGANWDS0  
MNTIGAMADS0  
MACNGAGADS0

West Coast Region -- Los Angeles, CA MSA

GRDNCA0201T  
GRDNCA0294T  
LSANCA0292T  
LSANCA0301T  
SHOKCA0296T



AT&T EXHIBIT 2

Three Regional LLCs (Southeast, Western and West Coast) met on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the effect of transitioning from former LNPA vendor Perot Systems to Lockheed Martin IMS, and the resulting impact on Industry Testing as well as MSA Implementation Schedules.

Consensus was reached that the NPAC Live date (May 11, 1998) appearing in Lockheed's Turn-Up Plan is the date when Intercompany, end-to-end testing may begin in each of the three regions. (BellSouth concurs with the intervals in the Lockheed Turn-Up Plan, but does not believe BellSouth will be ready for Intercompany testing by May 11.) The members also agreed that this period will last approximately thirty (30) days. (US West reports that the Western Region Testing Team currently supports a period ranging from six (6) to seven (7) weeks.)

Upon successful completion of Intercompany, end-to-end testing, some companies support a phased/metered office conversion approach. Other companies will determine their support of such an approach based upon the interval proposed for each phase. End dates for the affected MSAs are currently not available. More details will follow in individual company waiver requests to be filed with the FCC no later than March 2<sup>nd</sup> for Phase 1 MSAs.

The LLCs will provide NANC with additional information as it becomes available.

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Richard Scheer  
Chair  
West Coast Portability Services, LLC

Tommy Thompson  
Chair  
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